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CHEMICAL LAND HOLDINGS, INC.

March 8, 2002

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
290 Broadway, 19th Floor, Room W-20
New York, NY 10007-1866

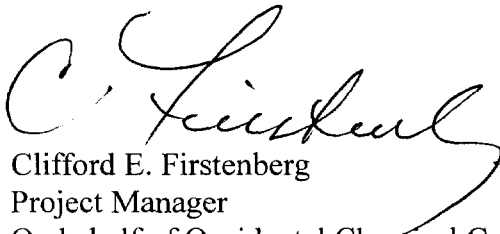
Attention: Ms. Janet Conetta
Strategic Integration Manager

Subject: Meeting Notes – Combined Sewer Overflow Investigation, Quality Assurance
Project Plan Comments (February 26, 2002)
Passaic River Study Area
Administrative Order on Consent Index No. II-CERCLA-0117

Dear Ms. Conetta:

Please find enclosed notes of the meeting between representatives of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Chemical Land Holdings (CLH) held on February 26, 2002 at EPA's office in Edison, NJ.

Sincerely,



Clifford E. Firstenberg
Project Manager
On behalf of Occidental Chemical Corporation
(as successor to Diamond Shamrock Chemicals Company)

enclosure

(2 copies sent)

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J. Conetta
Meeting Notes – CSO QAPP Comments
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- 2c: Section Chief
NJDEP-Bureau of Federal Case Management
401 East State Street - CN 028
Trenton, NJ 08625-0028
Attn: Jonathan D. Berg
- 1c: Chief, New Jersey Superfund Branch
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway, 19th Floor, Room W-20
New York, NY 10007-1866
Attention: Diamond Alkali Site Attorney - Passaic River Study Area
- 1c: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
290 Broadway, 19th Floor, Room W-20
New York, NY 10007-1866
Attention: Mr. Rick Winfield
- 1c: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
290 Broadway, 19th Floor, Room W-20
New York, NY 10007-1866
Attention: Ms. Sharon Jaffess

MEETING NOTES
Passaic River RI-CSO QAPP Technical Meeting
EPA, Edison
February 26, 2002
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Attendees

Chemical Land Holdings

Clifford Firstenberg – CLH Project Manager
Diane Waldschmidt – EDS Chemist
Alain Hebert – BBL Engineer

U.S. EPA

Jaffess – Co-Project Manager (EPA)
Winfield – Co-Project Manager (EPA)
Shari Stevens – Chief, HWSB
George Karras – Chemist
Bill Sy – Chemist
Natalie Atlas – Sign Language Interpreter

Attachments to Meeting Notes

- Meeting Agenda
- Response to Comments Letter

MEETING NOTES

1. Introductions and Overview of Items Discussed

The meeting followed the agenda, which is included as an attachment to these meeting notes.

After the introductions, Ms. Stevens indicated that she and her team had reviewed CLH's responses to EPA's comments on Volumes 2 and 3 of the Remedial Investigation, Combined Sewer Overflow Investigation (RI-CSO), Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and Appendix of Draft Methods and the Appendix of Approved Methods. She acknowledged CLH's point that some of EPA's comments may be addressed in Volume 1 of the RI-CSO Work Plan/Field Sampling Plan (WP/FSP), however, due to the recent receipt of Volume 1 by the Hazardous Waste Support Branch (HWSB), they did not yet have the opportunity to review Volume 1.

Ms. Stevens explained that the current EPA requirement is to use the EPA/240/B-01/003, March 2001, EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans, EPA QA/R5 (R5) which have been in effect since 2001. The R5 document combines the QAPP and FSP into one comprehensive document. In recognition of the advanced stage of development of the RI-CSO documents under review, EPA is not requiring the documents to be reorganized into the R5 format. However, in the future, documents will be required to be developed according to the R5 format. EPA requested that CLH submit a "cross reference table" for the information provided in the RI-CSO WP/FSP and QAPP to the information listed in Appendix A of R5.

Ms. Stevens indicated that as stated in EPA's comments and agreed upon by CLH, the analytical procedures proposed in the RI-CSO QAPP should be updated and/or revised to include the latest revisions/modifications.

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For the most part CLH's responses to EPA's comments satisfactorily addressed each of EPA's comments as discussed below.

2. Responses to Comments

Review of responses to comments was completed in numerical order as discussed below:

Comment 1.1:

In general, EPA accepted CLH's response. However, in addition, EPA has requested that CLH provide a "cross reference table" identifying the location of corresponding details for each of the R5 elements in Volumes 1, 2, and 3 of the RI-CSO Program. These elements are defined in Appendix A of the R5 document.

Comment 1.2

Because EPA has not had the opportunity to review Volume 1 of the RI-CSO Program, EPA could not comment on CLH's response to this comment. EPA will comment on CLH's response after reviewing Volume 1 of the RI-CSO Program.

Comment 1.3

EPA admitted that Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs) was the incorrect terminology; the intent was to refer to Data Quality Objectives (DQOs). Pending EPA's review of Volume 1 of the RI-CSO Program, additional descriptive language may need to be added to the Data Quality Objectives section of the Draft RI-CSO WP/FSP.

EPA wants a detailed narrative describing the DQOs, why the specific DQOs were selected, why the data are being collected, what the data will be used for, how the data will be used in the decision-making process, and what metric the data will be compared against for decision-making. Two DQOs discussed were:

1. Determine if the river will be recontaminated following a remedial action due to ongoing sources from CSOs.
2. Develop a dataset consistent with the Harbor Estuary Program's Contaminant Assessment Reduction Program (HEP/CARP). CLH needs to clarify that meeting this DQO does not dilute the primary DQO for the project, i.e., number 1 above.

Comment 2.1

EPA accepted CLH's response.

Comment 2.2

Because EPA has not had the opportunity to review Volume 1 of the RI-CSO Program EPA could not comment on CLH's response to this comment. EPA will comment on CLH's response after reviewing Volume 1 of the RI-CSO Program.

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Comment 2.3

EPA accepted CLH's response.

Comment 2.4

CLH will define details currently missing from the proposed New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) analytical procedure for analysis of Organochlorine Pesticides by HRGC/HRMS. CLH will prepare a preamble to the analytical method in the QAPP listing project-specific requirements for this method. These requirements will cover each of the four sections identified in EPA's comment 2.4. EPA accepted this approach.

Comment 2.5

EPA accepted CLH's response.

Comment 2.6

CLH's response was, at first, misunderstood ("Co-planar PCBs are a subset of the..."); however, upon clarification of the response, it was accepted by EPA.

Comment 2.7

EPA accepted CLH's response.

Comment 2.8

EPA and CLH discussed the issues associated with the current PAH analytical procedure. Mr. Karras indicated that, in his opinion, the GERG Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for PAH analyses using Selective Ion Monitoring (SIM), although previously approved for use during the Remedial Investigation, Ecological Sampling Plan (RI-ESP), does not provide sufficient method performance detail. Mr. Karras further indicated that the analytical technique proposed, HRGC/LRMS SIM, may not be the most effective available technology.

CLH agreed to evaluate alternative analytical techniques based on the target analyte list and achievable detection limits, and to submit a laboratory SOP for the alternate technique if one is identified. Otherwise, CLH will provide a more complete and detailed laboratory-specific SOP for the HRGC/LRMS SIM technique. The laboratory-specific SOP will, at a minimum, include the information described in EPA's comment 2.8.

Comment 2.9

This was not a comment. No response necessary

Comment 2.10

EPA accepted CLH's response.

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Comment 2.11

EPA provided to CLH the reference material discussed in this comment. CLH will evaluate the methods, forward them to its contract laboratories for review, and determine if the methods are reasonable. If appropriate, CLH will recommend the methods for this program; if not, CLH will explain why they are not being used (EPA indicated that a statement that the laboratory can not perform the subject methods would be sufficient).

Comment 2.12

EPA accepted CLH's response.

3. Field Program

EPA indicated that they would complete their review of the RI-CSO WP/FSP Volume 1 and provide comments to CLH in approximately 2 weeks (week of March 10, 2002).

Mr. R. Winfield requested that salinity be added to the field analytical parameters. CLH agreed.

Mr. Winfield requested that CLH look at the effort required to convert the current RI-CSO WP/FSP into the R5 format since additional sampling other than the proposed RI-CSO program may be required in the future. CLH indicated that they will evaluate the required effort.

4. Next Steps/Action Items

Sediment Transport Modeling: Mr. Winfield is delaying his follow-up with the Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station pending a decision on URRI-PRRI and HEP CARP during the next couple of weeks.

Next Technical Meeting: Mr. Winfield suggested a meeting with the Hudson River Foundation (HRF) to discuss CLH's participation (as an observer) in the HEP/CARP Modeling Evaluation Group (MEG). The objective would be to establish a stronger technical dialog between CLH and the HEP/CARP. Mr. Firstenberg will send some available dates to Mr. Winfield.

TOPS Samplers: Mr. Winfield indicated that whole water samples collected over a long period of time may be more appropriate than samples collected using TOPS samplers (since there is unresolved controversy over the performance of these samplers). Mr. Winfield indicated that he was in favor of composite samples collected over a long period of time (months) to monitor loading at various location of the river system. Ms. Jaffess indicated that HWSB might be able to provide a waiver from holding time requirements if sample aliquots were collected and frozen until they were composited.

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CLH

- Prepare and submit notes of the meeting.
- Provide available dates for a meeting with EPA and HRF.
- Provide a cross-reference table between the current RI-CSO WP/FSP and QAPP to R5; delivery of this table can wait until after CLH receives EPA's comments on Volume 1.
- Provide updated laboratory SOP for PAHs by HRGC/LRMS SIM or an alternative technique.
- Provide specific criteria (preamble) for the incomplete details in the NYSDEC Organochlorine Pesticide Analysis by HRGC/HRMS SOP.
- Evaluate effort to convert the current RI-CSO report into the R5 format.

EPA

- Complete review and provide comments on RI-CSO WP/FSP Volume 1 of 3 within approximately 2 weeks (week of March 10, 2002).
- Schedule Technical meeting with CLH and HRF.

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